

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 06692 152222Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05  
/040 W

-----115773 160402Z /20

R 151605Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3707  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 6692

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

THE FOLLOWING SENT USINFO AND SECSTATE SEP 15 BEING REPEATED  
FOR YOUR INFO QUOTE

UNCLAS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1-PANAMA CITY.--KISSINGER AND RUSK TESTIMONY BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE WAS LEAD STORY IN THREE OF FOUR MORNINGS  
SEPTEMBER 15. CRITICA ALONE FOCUSED ON LOCAL STORIES, GIVING  
PROMINENCE TO TORRIJOS' POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF PA-  
NAMA SEPTEMBER 21 TO MEET WITH ANTI-TREATY STUDENTS AND THE  
ANNOUNCED DISTRIBUTION OF 200,000 TREATY TEXTS FOR TODAY.  
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2-CRITICA ALSO FRONT-PAGED A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL INSITUTE HARSHLY CRITICAL OF GOP  
POLICY, CONDEMNING THE TREATY, DEMANDING THE END TO U.S. BASES  
AND CENSURING THE GN FOR ITS REPRESSION OF THE SEPTEMBER 7  
STUDENT DEMONSTRATION.

3-LEAD EDIT OF MATUTINO OF SEPTEMBER 15 PRAISES GOP FOR TWO DOCUMENTS EMITTED IN LAST 24 HOURS, THE LAW GOVERNING THE OCTOBER 23 PLEBISCITE AND THE INVITATION TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO OBSERVE THE REFERENDUM. ACCORDING TO MATUTINO, THE ACCEPTANCE OR THE REJECTION OF THE TREATY, "WILL BE COURSES CHOSEN BY THE MAJORITY AT THE BALLOT BOX, WHERE THEY WILL REGISTER THEIR OPINIONS WITHOUT CONSTRAINTS, PRESSURES OR FEARS...A FREE ELECTION CARRIED OUT BY EQUALLY FREE CITIZENS."

4-THE LETTER TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, SAYS MATUTINO, "IS AN OPEN CHALLENGE, MADE TO ORDER, TO DISPROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL, ALL OF THE UNFOUNDED CHARGES FROM EVERY DIRECTION BY OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT..." IT WILL SHOW THAT THE ABUSES, THE IMPRISONMENTS, DEATHS AND TORTURE "ONLY EXIST IN THE IMAGINATIONS OF THOSE MINDS UNBALANCED BY THE IMPACT OF SELF EXILE."

5-CAMILO O. PEREZ, IN HIS DAILY "BONA FIDE" COLUMN IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CRITICA DISCUSSES "WHAT CAN HAPPEN IN THE SENATE," SPECIFICALLY WHETHER OR NOT THE SENATE CAN MODIFY THE TREATY. PEREZ CONCLUDES THAT THE SENATE COULD STIPULATE MODIFICATIONS OR AMMENDMENTS WHICH COULD LEAD TO A RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE TREATY.

6-SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA RETURNED IN ITS LEAD EDIT TO A UNCLASSIFIED

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FAVORITE THEME, SOVIET IMPERIALISM. "SOME PERSONS OF KNOWN IDEOLOGY," SAYS LA ESTRELLA, "KEEP REPEATING THE SLOGANS COINED LONG AGO ACCUSING THE U.S. OF IMPERIALISM WITHOUT REALIZING, SEEMINGLY, THAT SAID SITUATION NO LONGER EXISTS,AND THAT THE MOST GRIEVOUS AND EVIDENT IMPERIALISM IS THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION," AFTER COMPARING U.S. WILLINGNESS TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO PUERTO RICO WITH SOVIET DOMINATION OF EASTERN EUROPE, LA ESTRELLA CONCLUDES: "WHEN IMPERIALISM IN MENTIONED TODAY, IT IS THE RUSSIANS WHOSE EARS SHOULD BURN. THE U.S. IS NOT A SAINT, BECAUSE NO COUNTRY IS, LEAST OF ALL A GREAT POWER. BUT TO ACCUSE IT OF IMPERIALISM AS IF THE SOVIET UNION DIDN'T EXIST, IS THE ULTIMATE IN ABSURDITY." ITEM UNQUOTE JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTIONS THE FOLLOWING SENT USINFO AND SECSTATE SEP 15 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO QUOTE  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PDIP, PN, PQ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009